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House Bill 0715/ Public Schools Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms-Use of Video Recording Devices.

Position: Support with Amendments.

Ways and Means Committee

2/10/201

Brian and I adopted Destiny from foster care in Calvert County. She had a stroke in utero and was born addicted to drugs. We moved to Anne Arundel County when my husband received military orders to the United States Naval Academy.

Destiny is a 12-year-old girl with cerebral palsy. She cannot speak, she cannot walk, she cannot eat anything by mouth, she wears diapers, and is 100% dependent on adults to address her very basic needs, which includes safety.

Unfortunately, Destiny has received numerous injuries while in the care of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. And the school cannot, or will not tell us how she obtained these injuries.

Destiny was wheeled off the bus with a broken leg. No call, no explanation. The break required surgery. We were told by the school system to, "Move on."

We don't know how her tooth was knocked out, resulting in so much blood the school had to throw her shirt away and Destiny required an emergency dental visit due to trauma and bruised gums. School system said they, "don't know what happened."

We have more injuries and stories to share. What they all have in common is we don't know what happened/were not informed. My daughter is becoming heavier and if you don't know how to properly transfer her from her wheelchair to a changing table to change her diaper, you are going to hurt her. Many times the aides have minimal to zero experience in education.

Destiny is not verbal and cannot tell us what happened.

I support the bill because it is only in self-contained classrooms and can only be accessible after a reported incident. A reported incident.

These classrooms contain a school's most vulnerable students. If we are monitoring students in the cafeteria, the pe class, the music room, the hallways, why can't we have cameras in self-contained classrooms that can only be accessible when an incident was reported.

If this was your child, would it be okay she was wheeled off the bus with a broken leg and nobody told you what happened? Thank you for considering approving recording devices in self-contained classrooms that can only be accessed when an incident is reported.

Very Respectfully, Susan Reinhart